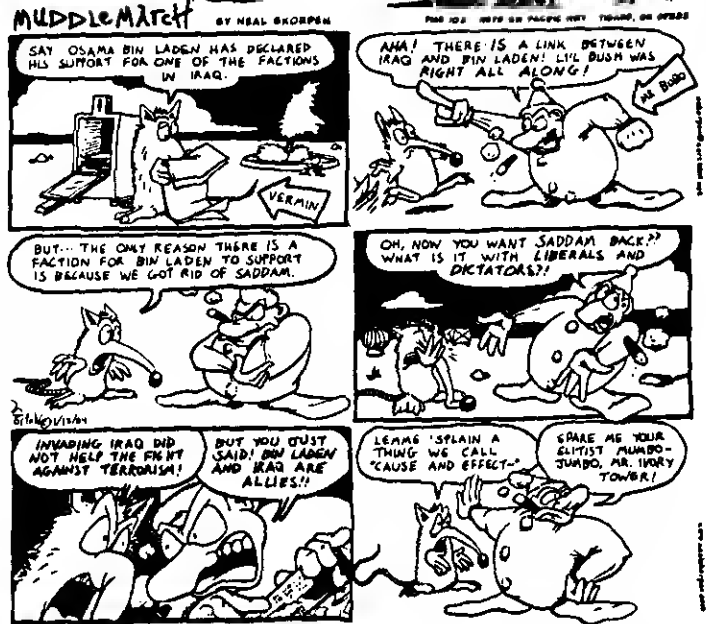


GRAUSTARK

#764 2002A, "Fall 1911"; 2002D, "Spring 1907"; 2004C, "Spring 1903" 16 April 2005

New Directions in Diplomacy



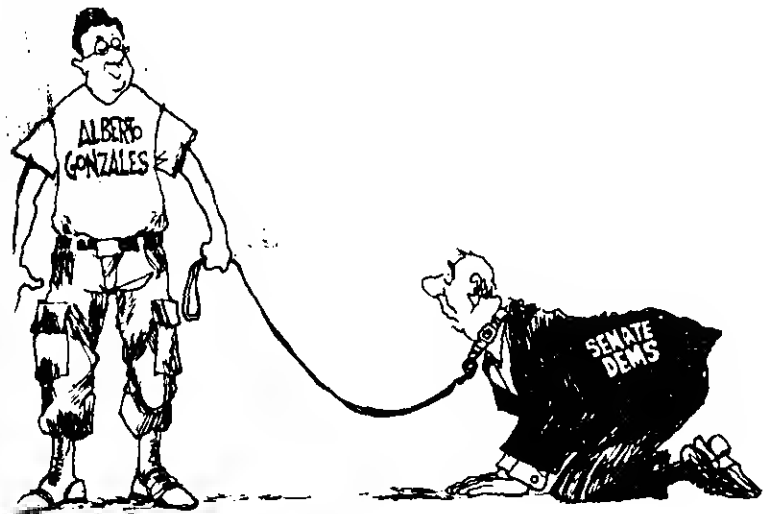
"CHAPTERED OUT" AT CAMP BUGGA

SEARCH AND DESTROY By Ted Rall



Yet again: A collage cover commemorating this loathsome war and its loathsome supporters

BUSH BULLIED FRANCE INTO SENDING ONE OFFICER TO IRAQ - WELL, BRUSSELS. NOW OTHER ALLIES ARE JOINING THE COALITION OF THE CHILLING:



GENERAL CRITICIZED FOR DISRUPTING THE PUBLIC'S ROSY DELUSION OF WAR



CALLING ALL BROWN-SKINNED FOLKS WITH FUNNY NAMES: DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR VERY OWN SURPRISE "FREEDOM VACATION!"



THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow



"AWFUL" IS THE NEW "GREAT"



THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is now published by Hasbro. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 75 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 30 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions. # 2105

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579 or 718-951-5808, extension 2. There are answering machines which can take your moves if I'm out. I do not have an e-mail address.

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have arrived here by mail in less than a week, do not assume that this will always be the case.

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

*

Some of the cards on the front cover of Graustark #763 are from collectible card games, while others are used in the play of board games. They are:

- upper left - Tomb Raider (1999) from Precedence Entertainment
- upper middle - Battlelines (2001) from Lost Battalion Games
- upper right and lower left - Dragon Booster (2005) from Score Entertainment
- middle left - an event card from the original edition of Source of the Nile, published by Discovery Games in 1978
- middle - a treasure card from Greg Stafford's excellent but insufficiently appreciated King Arthur's Knights, published by Chaosium in 1978, and certainly capable of revival today as a computer game
- middle right - an event card from the original SPI edition of Empires of the Middle Ages (1980), whose play was usually met with the words: "Leader Dies Hairless - Charles the Bald!" Below this are two event cards from SPI's game Spies (1981)
- lower right - a nobleman card from Avalon-Hill's 1976 American edition of the originally British game Kingmaker

(Some of these publishers may have gone out of business, or merged with or been acquired by others. Information on the publishers listed above would be appreciated.)

*

On 27 March, Tom Howell phoned me with the news that Phil Reynolds had died a couple of weeks earlier. He is trying to place Phil's nine games with other publishers. This may take a bit of time, since Phil was last able to publish in December 2003. I offered to take over some of the regular postal Diplomacy games, and possibly also a game of the "Gunboat" variant, and if the information gets to me before the date of publication of this issue, you will find the announcement(s) of game resumption elsewhere in this issue. If the information doesn't get here by this issue's date of

publication, it will be in the next issue, due out about 10 May 2005.

Cause of death was a collapse of his immune system, due to some agricultural pesticides to which he had been exposed eleven years earlier. Those can be fearsome things. When I was a graduate student at Iowa State University about fifty years ago I was given a few of the details by a doctoral candidate in agronomy. She informed me that the university had a contract to test certain powerful pesticides; professors and students who went into the field with them had to wear heavy protective garments, and breathe through masks. The really interesting part of these tests were, that the research contract came from the Department of what is laughably called "Defense". We wondered what interest the Pentagon might have had in testing powerful poisons, but naturally no explanations were ever given.

*

Readers may have noted that, in my reviews of murder mysteries set in ancient times, I use the abbreviations "CE" and "BCE" for dates in the Common Era and Before the Common Era. This apparently pernicious practice has recently come under the condemnation of a Southern Baptist convention, and of a *New York Daily News* staff writer named Joe Williams, who noted on 27 March 2005 that "Politically correct history professors and some textbooks are switching from using religious-based terms to mark history to more agnostic phrases. Instead of 'B. C.' or 'Before Christ' the new phrase on college campuses is 'Before [the] Common Era' or 'B. C. E.'". The term 'A. D.' - which comes from the Latin Anno Domini, meaning 'in the year of our Lord' - is giving way to 'C. E.' or 'Common Era'."

Throughout, Williams uses the term "politically correct" as if correctness were somehow wrong, and since this is probably as mysterious to you as it is to me, I will not dwell on the matter. However, the "BC" and "AD" usages tie historical dating to Christianity, as if only one religion had any standing to be considered in the matter.

Non-Christians, of course, have always objected to this arrogance. The usages "BCE" and "CE" were originally Jewish, and I have adopted them in my writings. ("The Year of the Lord" would make no sense; I have no lords.) Besides, Christian dating is sometimes erroneous. The Christian scriptures assert that Jesus, from whose presumed date of birth the "AD" dating begins, was born in the reign of King Herod I, the Roman Empire's straw-boss in the Kingdom of Judaea. Yet Flavius Josephus informed us in the first century that there was an eclipse of the Moon, which can only occur at Full Moon, when Herod I died. There was rioting in Jerusalem on the next Full Moon, which was Passover. Astronomical calculations inform us that this must have happened in the year which, by our present calendar, was 4 BCE. Obviously the fifth-century Christian scholar Dionysius Exiguus ("Puny Denny"), who established our custom of numbering years from the presumed date of the birth of Jesus, got something wrong.

However, the usage of the present dating system is so old, and so widespread, that there would be no point in abandoning dating in the Common Era and instead starting the year-count from some other year. Christians may, if they wish, interpret "BCE" and "CE" as "Before the Christian Era" and "Christian Era" without doing violence to their religious beliefs or abandoning Puny Denny's miscalculations.

Naturally, Williams does not see it this way. Nor does Diane Ravitch, cited by Williams as an "education historian". In her book *The Language Police*, she claims that:

"It is an effort to remove religious influences from history, which is plainly a fool's errand since religion is and always has been an important force in human behavior."

If Ravitch went on to explain why it would be equally valid to number years from the presumed creation of the universe, the foundation of the Holy City of Rome, or Muhammad's hasty trip from Mecca to Yathrib, Williams did not see fit to quote her words. But he does quote a crushing rebuttal from Gary Nash, director of the National Center for History in Schools:

"Once you take a global approach, it makes sense not to make a dating system applicable only to a relative few."

(continued on p. 9)

PATRIOTISM - XXXVIII

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is giving asylum to the surviving victims of the Montserrat volcano in 1995, and now forcing these refugees to leave the United States, presumably so that they will not start any volcanoes here.

PATRIOTISM is the U. S. armed forces responding to concern about torture at Abu Ghraib prison by issuing new rules about it - and then forbidding them to be made public!

PATRIOTISM is not sending "9/11 detainees" overseas to be tortured, when the job is being done perfectly well at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. (Tom Brune, *Newsday*, 12 March 2005) After denying that any videotapes of abuse existed, the detention center eventually produced 300 of them.

PATRIOTISM is Bill O'Reilly calling Professor Ward Churchill of the University of Colorado a "traitor", despite the fact that "treason" is rigorously defined in the U. S. Constitution, and that nothing of which Prof. Churchill is accused comes close to that definition. (*New York Post*, 11 March 2005)

PATRIOTISM is a new book by former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Jim Babbin: *Inside the Asylum: Why the U. N. and Old Europe Are Worse Than You Think*.

PATRIOTISM is the admission, by Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, that an 11-year-old boy was held prisoner at Abu Ghraib for several months, and her refusal to say why he was held or what has become of him.

PATRIOTISM is the claim by Attorney General Gonzalez that if prisoners are sent abroad for detention, the U. S. Constitution no longer applies.

PATRIOTISM is giving a whole bundle of "homeland security" money to Newark, NJ - which then used it to air-condition its garbage trucks.

PATRIOTISM is revoking the American citizenship of Nazi labor camp guard Iwan Mandycz, a mere fifty years after he received it.

PATRIOTISM is giving a Muslim prisoner in a federal prison four months of solitary confinement for cooperating with an investigation by the Inspector General of the Department of "Justice".

PATRIOTISM is the Department of Homeland "Security" calling in its Inspector General, Clark Kent (!) Erwin, and twice ordering him to stop reporting to Congress, and to put a more favorable spin on his reports to the department.

PATRIOTISM is yanking Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, an American citizen out, of a final exam at a Sa'udi university and placing him under arrest at the request of the U. S. government, where he was interrogated and tortured by U. S. government agents, while the U. S. government claimed that the U. S. has no jurisdiction in the case.

PATRIOTISM is re-assigning Staff Sgt. Jeannette Arocho-Burkart, a proven abuser of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, to the Army Intelligence School, where she teaches "interrogation techniques" to other soldiers.

PATRIOTISM is the new requirement by Metropolitan Life Insurance, landlord of Peter Cooper Village in Manhattan, that all residents must carry photo identification and key cards, and display them on demand as East Germany used to do, before they can enter their homes.

PATRIOTISM is arresting the actress Rosario Dawson and two cameramen for making a movie (for which they had a permit) outside Madison Square Garden during the Republican National Convention.

PATRIOTISM is arresting Benjamin Traslavina, 17, a high-school honor student who was an accredited member and representative of the Junior Statesman Foundation Symposium, on charges of "felony riot" for participating in the "Youth Day" activities at the Republican National Convention by filming the arrest of Act Up demonstrators at Madison Square Garden.

PATRIOTISM is the flood-tide of support from fellow Marines and fellow firefighters for Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantino, arrested for shooting two unarmed Iraqi civilian detainees in the back, and then displaying the bodies under a sign "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy".

PATRIOTISM is the statement by Lt. Gen. James Mattis, USMC, that "It's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a hoot...It's fun to shoot some people."

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXXII

For no intelligible reasons, a few Christian fanatics have for the past 25 years or so been attacking Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games (RPGs), video games, and even board games. The principal opposition to these bursts of religious fanaticism comes from the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and from the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGA). This column relies heavily on reports from both of these organizations. CAR-PGA Newsletter is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on D&D and other RPGs, and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions.

*.

However, the campaign against D&D has just broken out in a new place. Would you believe the Israeli army? No, I wouldn't have either, if Anne Braude hadn't discovered this report on the Internet and passed it on to Ed Meškys, who sent it to me. It seems that the Israeli army claims that "players are detached from reality...[and] are automatically given a low security clearance." The game is popular in Israel; "[t]housands of youth and teens in Israel play 'D and D', fighting dragons and demons using their rich imaginations. The game has also increased in popularity due to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy." This should not surprise us, since the desire to put characters like those from the *Lord of the Rings* into an adventure game was one of the reasons that Gygax and Arneson designed D&D in the first place. Many of the Israeli D&D enthusiasts "are from the former Soviet Union, where the game is popular," mainly after *Lord of the Rings* was first translated into Russian in the 1980s.

Israeli army recruits are now routinely asked if they play D&D. If they do, they are "sent to a professional for an evaluation, usually a psychologist". Igor, an Israeli D&D player, reports that "exposing soldiers who play the game could result in the soldiers being sent to a military psychologist or even being kicked out of the army." Considering the universality of Israel's military draft, and the high level of military activity in the Muddle East, a lot of Israeli draftees may resort to this method of escape.

A military official "explained" matters this way:

"These people have a tendency to be influenced by external factors which could cloud their judgment. They may be detached from reality or have a weak personality - elements which lower a person's security clearance, allowing them to serve in the army, but not in sensitive positions."

*

Game-bashing may be new to Israel, but here it is only a small part of the campaign of the Christian Right to dictate every aspect of American life. This column therefore has to deal sometimes with other aspects of this campaign. For details about this campaign from their own, log on to the website of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, <www.godhatesfags.com> and its spin-off, <www.godhatesamerica.com>. (*New York Times*, 1 March 2004)

For many years the Reverend James Dobson, founder of "Focus on the Family", has been a living proof that the best examples of human kinship with the apes are the people who deny that kinship. Although he is a veteran enemy of D&D, he has lately turned his attention to an issue better calculated to grab headlines. Would you believe *SpongeBob SquarePants*? Or Barney the purple Dinosaur? Or *Sesame Street's* Big Bird? Well, Dobson would, according to the diligent watchdogs of our civil liberties at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

It started when a number of cartoon characters were enlisted in a video campaign designed to promote tolerance among children. One of them was the unaccountably popular *SpongeBob SquarePants*. The idea is to persuade children to have "respect for people whose abilities, beliefs, culture, race, sexual identity, or other characteristics are different from [our] own," so that they do not pick on and tease those who are in any way different. A Southern Baptist minister named Terry Fox claims that "Tolerance itself can be a dangerous word. Tolerance gives the public schools an avenue to literally brainwash our kids that every lifestyle is OK." And Dobson's assistant Paul Batura claims that this video is "an insidious means by which the organization is

manipulating and brainwashing kids." (*amNew York*, 21 January 2005)

It would seem that Dobson, Fox, Batura, and others will not be satisfied until children suspected of homosexuality are jeered at, and beaten up, in every schoolyard in America.

*

An old Jewish story from the days of the Russian Empire tells about a young Socialist who was riding in a train and reading a Yiddish-language Socialist newspaper, when he noticed that across the aisle from him was an elderly rabbi reading a Russian-language newspaper published by a rabidly anti-Jewish organization.

"Rabbi, why are you reading that newspaper?" the Socialist asked. "They hate Jews. Here, read *my* newspaper. It tells what is really going on in the world."

"If I read your newspaper," the rabbi replied, "I read that we are persecuted, that we are jailed, that we are killed. If I read this newspaper, I read that we control the banks, that we control the press, that we control the government. Now - which newspaper do you think I would rather read?"

I was reminded of this story when I read of Senate Majority Leader William Frist's (R-TN) and House Majority Leader Thomas DeLay's (R-TX) criticism of the federal courts. (*New York Times*, 15 & 17 April 2005) It is Senator Frist's belief that the federal court nominees named by Bush the Son are being blocked by "Democrats against 'people of faith'". And DeLay has produced a "rabble-rousing video" for the "Judeo-Christian Council for Constitutional Restoration", which recently held a Washington conference on "Confronting the Judicial War on Faith". Sunday 24 April has been named by Frist as "Justice Sunday", on which a telecast will expose this conspiracy to the American people. Participants in this telecast include Dr. James C. Dobson (founder of Focus on the Family and a known opponent of RPGs), Dr. Al Mohler (president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), and the well-known Watergate jailbird Charles Colson.

This is not the first claim that Christians are being persecuted in America. But only a few people are actually identifying the persecutors. One of them is William Donahue, chairman and possibly the only member of the "Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights". Commenting on the controversy over Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*, he blames secular Jews in Hollywood who hate Christians, especially Catholics.

But, to judge from Frist's words, all "people of faith" are the targets of persecution by somebody or other. This judgment would seem to put it all on us Atheists. The most recent figure I've seen places the Atheists in this country at a mere 3.2% of the population. And Atheists have long been marginalized in American society. It would be political suicide for any candidate for public office to admit to Atheism. Eight states forbid us to be elected to public office. There is a \$200 fine for Atheism on the books in Vermont, and Atheists may not get married in Maryland.

Yet now, somehow, Atheists are alleged to be this sinister ruling class that controls the courts and forbids them to enforce Christian principles in their decisions.

So just who are these sinister Atheists? Frist and his colleagues have not publicly identified any of them. I rather doubt that most Americans could name even one Atheist who holds an influential position in American public life. During the recent presidential election, some Republicans claimed that George Soros, a major contributor to Democratic campaigns, is an Atheist, but this claim did not become a widely discussed part of the campaign. The critic Christopher Hitchens is an Atheist, and *supports* the American war on Iraq, which must distress the devout Christians who also support it.

*

Richard Abanes's book *Fantasy and Your Family* is undertaking the difficult task of proving to Fundamentalist Christians that J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books and R. L. Stine's Goosebumps series are luring impressionable children to Witchcraft and Satanism, while the *Lord of the Rings* and *Chronicles of Narnia* series are godly fantasy written by devout Christian authors promoting Christian values. He has thus plunged himself into a two-front war, and must simultaneously defend himself against fantasy fans who deny that there is any harm in the Harry Potter books, and devout Christians who believe that the works of Tolkien and Lewis are just as satanic as those of Rowling and Stine. Other Christians take this latter view; Rev. Jack Brock cast, into his notorious Christmas 2001 bonfire, works by Tolkien, Rowling, and Shakespeare(!). Naturally, D&D gets drawn

2002A

"Fall 1911"

RUSSIANS HOLD FIRM AS GERMANS DEPART

FRANCE (Street): F Hel S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Mun-Kie; A Lon-Yor; F Eng-Mid; F Nrg S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A St.P-Nwy; A Bel-Hol; F Nth & A Ruh S A Bel-Hol; A Bur S A Ruh; A Mar S A Bur.

GERMANY (Milewski): A Hol-Ruh; A Kie S A Hol-Ruh.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): A Mun-Kie; A Boh-Sil; A Gal S TURKISH A Pru-War; A Vie-Boh; F Ion & A Ven hold; A St.P-Nwy; A Tyr-Mun; A Bud-Vie.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Fin-Nwy; A War-Pru; A Ber S A War-Pru; F Bal-Den; A Swe S F Bal-Den.

TURKEY (Jordan): A Mos-St.P; A Ukr-Mos; F Ska S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A St.P-Nwy; F Bar S A Mos-St.P; A Arm-Sev; F Bla, F Tun & F Aeg hold; A Pru-War.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German A Hol and A Ruh are dislodged and annihilated, and Germany is now out of the game. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (10)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Kie, Mun, Nwy, Rom, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie. (10)

RUSSIA: Ber, Den, Swe, War. (4)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Mos, Nap, Rum, St.P, Sev, Smy, Tun. (10)

France, Turkey, and Austria-Hungary may each build one unit, and Russia must remove one. The deadline for these "Winter 1911" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 20 MAY 2005.

WARSAW (Oct. 31, 1911): Grand Duke Ivan has declared himself the new ruler of Russia and pledged to free the Motherland of the Turkish invader. The Grand Duke condemned the Austrians and the French for their connivance with the heathen Turks. "Where exactly does the Emperor think his armies in Vienna and Budapest can go? The road to Sofia is open. As for that President of France, what Frenchman would allow Turkish fleets into the Atlantic? A traitor to his country is the answer."

2002D

"Spring 1907"

REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA?

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A St.P-Mos; F Nrg-Nwy; F Nwy-St.P(n.c.); F Bar S F Nwy-St.P(n.c.); F Lon holds.

FRANCE (Lischett): A Pie-Ven; A Tyr S A Pie-Ven; F Lyo-Tyr; F Tun & F Wes S F Lyo-Tyr; A Ven-Rom; F Tus S F Ven-Rom; A Mar-Pie.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Gal-Bud; A Vie S A Gal-Bud; A Pru-Liv; A Sil-War; F Bot & F Bal S A Pru-Liv; A Ber-Pru.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Ion-Adr; F Nap S RUSSIAN F Aeg-Ion; F Rom S F Nap; A Ser S A Tri; A Tri S RUSSIAN A Bud-Vie.

RUSSIA (Grose): No moves received. A Mos, F Aeg, A Ukr, A Rum, A Apu, A Sev, and F Bla hold; A Bud and A Livonia dislodged and annihilated.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Italian F Rom is dislodged and annihilated. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 20 MAY 2005. Stand-by orders for Russia should be sent in by Michael Neal, whose address is on p. 11.

THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - IV

"When eminent encyclopedias and statistical handbooks contradict themselves three or four times on three or four different pages, what is the poor amateur going to do?

"I suppose in the end he will do what I did. He will call a plague upon all these learned tomes and buy himself a copy of the 'World Almanac' and he will say: 'I am going

to stick to this one book, and if anyone wants to sue me because I have made Kilimanjaro 19,710 feet high (in the Britannica it is 19,321; in Andrew's Geography, 19,000; in Tarr and McMurray, 19,780; in the Oxford Advanced Atlas, 19,320; in the World Almanac, 19,710) I shall tell him to go and see the publishers of the *World-Telegram, Inc.*, and let him fight it out with them.'" - Hendrik Willem van Loon, *Van Loon's Geography* (1932)

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 4)

Sometimes murder mysteries set in ancient Rome, and my reviews of them, use the ancient Roman dating system. The initials "AVC" mean "Ab Urbis Conditae" or "Anno Urbis Conditae", measure years from the legendary founding of Rome by the fratricidal bandit chieftains Romulus and Remus. (In ancient Rome, "U" and "V" were considered to be the same letter - as they were in English until about 200 years ago.) Puny Denny started his calculation of the presumed date of the birth of Jesus from the scriptural information (Luke 3:1) that Jesus began preaching in the 15th year of the Emperor Tiberius, which was 783 AVC. Luke 3:23 asserts that Jesus was "about" thirty years old when he began to preach. Nearly five centuries later, Puny Denny took this to be exactly thirty years, counted back from 783 AVC, and hit on 753 AVC as the year of his birth. By our calendar, this would then put the founding of Rome in 753 BCE.

*

In the last issue I suggested that the U. S. armed forces might not be too successful in trying to conquer the world with drop-outs. My example was from the comic strips, which obviously is not really convincing. During the American intervention in the Korean Civil War of 1950-53, Mort Walker had his character Beetle Bailey flunk out of college and enlist in the army, where he remains.

But on 27 March 2005 the *New York Times* printed a long, front-page article by Damien Cave about the difficulty which military recruiters are having in persuading people to enlist, go to the Muddle East, and get patriotically blown to bits. Between superior officers who demand more warm bodies, and young people who (as Vice President Cheney put it) have "other options" for their lives, recruiters are suffering from stress, marital problems, and even a few nervous breakdowns. The requirements for en-

listing are often ignored so that more soldiers may be enlisted, and so the armed forces are getting high school dropouts who also do not meet physical or mental requirements, or have criminal records. The No Child Left Behind Act forces high schools to make students available to recruiters, and they have also become persistent in pursuing parents of potential soldiers. This has included attempts to visit the homes of these potential soldiers and trying to persuade their parents to get them into the armed forces. The current *Doonesbury* sequence, in which a recruiting sergeant breaks into Mike's home to try to get his daughter to enlist, is not a major exaggeration of reality. And, at long last, *Beetle Bailey* also



(continued on p. 12)

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in a current postal Diplomacy games are indicated by its Boardman Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2002A-G" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

N: entrant in a new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark. (See p. 3 for details.)

T: trade copy

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 13 April 2005. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;

<stephen@stephenagar.com>

Hank Alme (2004C-A), 506 Paige Loop, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 503-672-0883;

<almehj@alumni.rice.edu>

Thom Anderson (R), #5-D, 10 Park Terrace East, New York, NY 10034

Ruth Berman (R), 2809 Drew Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209

John R. Biehl (2002A-RS, 2004C-R), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA;

604-591-1832; <jrb@dccnet.com>.

Mark Blackman (R), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 17th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229

Paul & Meg Bolduc (T), 203 Devon Court, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3110; 850-863-9081;

<Prbolduc@aol.com>; <bolduc@eglin.af.com>

Richard Bourgeois (2002A-G), 786 Myrtle Ave., Albany, NY 12208-2659; 518-437-9917

Anne Braude (R), 5316 W. Port au Prince Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3440

Colin Bruce (2004C-T+6), 22 Alliance Court, Hills Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7XE, ENGLAND

Jim Burgess (T), 664 Smith St., Providence, RI 02908-4327; 401-351-5287; <burgess@world.

std.com>; web page <<http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>>

Brian Burley (C), 23 Reynolds Place, Harrison, NJ 07029

Allan B. Calhmer (C), 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525-5523

Paul Cardwell Jr. (C), 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913; 903-583-9296

David Charlton (C), 150 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, NEW ZEALAND

Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231

Jim Dapkus (766), W6575 Dakota Ave., Westfield, WI 53964

Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011

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WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. This information is valid to the date of 13 April 2005. For information on joining a new game, or extending your subscription, see p. 3.

765 - Mike Fisher
 766 - Jim Dapkus
 767 - Jim Grose

767 - Paul Milewski
 Eric Verheiden
 W. Andrew York

770 - Michael Neal
 772 - Karl Schmit
 799 - Brenton Verploeg

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS (continued from p. 7)

into these controversies. This is not the easiest thing to study, because *Fantasy and Your Family*, like most of the anti-gaming and pro-censorship tracts I have bought at Christian Publications, does not have an index.

In the highly respected Protestant Evangelical publication *Christianity Today*, Michael Maudlin and Ted Olsen have written, as paraphrased by Abanes: "If you want to condemn a work for what it has inspires, then turn up the heat for Tolkien... It would be hard not to link the occult-friendly role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons to the influence and popularity of *Lord of the Rings*, which has provided the imaginative landscape for much modern fantasy. One website even sells *Lord of the Rings* Tarot Cards."

Yes, *Lord of the Rings* was a major influence on D&D, and what of it? Gygax and Arneson started from existing board war-games set in the pre-gunpowder era, and then added to this concept human and non-human characters from *Lord of the Rings* and other fantasy works traditional and modern.

Abanes frequently complains that Harry Potter and his friends frequently disobey Hogwarts Academy and Ministry of Magic rules, and get away with it. Complaining about this is a mis-understanding of just what sort of books the Harry Potter series are. They are magic added to a variety of British fiction that goes back almost two centuries - the schoolboy novel. In books of this sort, from *Tom Brown's Schooldays* onward, the protagonists get into stock situations which must be dealt with by evading some rule, usually set by an unfair or tyrannical master. All the stock characters of British schoolboy fiction may be found in the Harry Potter books - the hero, the hero's best friend, the gal pal, the fat boy, the bully, the bully's henchmen, and masters of varying degrees of fairness, competence, and affability.

Alan Jacobs has noted, in the conservative Catholic publication *First Things*, that "Harry is justified at being disobedient because he only disobeys characters who are themselves evil or against good." Such a concept disturbs Abanes deeply. "[T]o Jacobs," he complains, "disobeying and lying to people may be acceptable as long as those being disobeyed and lied to are not admirable people. This is a blatant contradiction of Christian morality." I am certain that the German officers who court-martialed Private Otto Schimek and sentenced him to death would have agreed. Schimek was a German soldier who, in 1944, refused an order to fire on Polish civilians. His tomb in Machowej, Poland is now a center of pilgrimage from all over Europe, and he is a candidate for canonization.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 9)



addresses current military issues.

*

And, to clean up a few minor misprints and incomplete statements in recent issues:

Bill Mauldin's dates were (1921-2003). Even at

this late date, his 1944 memoirs as a wartime cartoonist, *Up Front*, are well worth reading. It gives a picture of an American enlisted man's point of view on World War II. His views of his fellow soldiers, his officers, and the enemy make an interesting contrast with more recent American military actions in which the reasons for going to war, and the ways of fighting it, were far less clear cut and coherent.

And the Dutch general who collaborated with the Nazis was Hendrik Seyffert (1872-1943). He was assassinated by Dutch partisans working with the British Special Operations Executive.

*

"I was brought before His Tartar Majesty as a spy for the Pope... He had me asked

BALKANS IN THE USUAL TANGLE

Apparently two letters from Dan Mathias have gone astray in the mail, since he phoned me and told me that he indeed sent in his moves and intends to continue in this game. There seems to be a considerable turnover of mailmen on this route, and we have frequently been getting letters for people who do not live here. I would be my guess that letters addressed to us therefore frequently go elsewhere. Phoning in your moves may be the best way to go.

ENGLAND (Koch): A Lon-Bel; F Nth C A Lon-Bel; F Nat-Mid; F Iri S F Nat-Mid.

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): F Mid-Iri; F Bre-Mid; A Bur-Pic; A Gas-Bur;
F Spa(s.c.) S F Bre-Mid.

GERMANY (Mathias): F Swe-Nwy; F Den-Nth; A Hol-Bur[sic]; A Mun-Tyr; A Sil-Boh.

ITALY (Mooney): A Gre-Ser; A Tri S A Gre-Ser; F Apu-Adr; F Nap-Ion; F Tun S F Nap-Ion;
A Ven-Tyr.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Alme): A Alb S TURKISH F Aeg-Gre; A Ser S TURKISH F Aeg-Gre; A Rum-Bud;
A Gal-Vie.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Sev-Arm; F Bla S A Sev-Arm; A Ukr-Sev; A War-Gal.

TURKEY (Bruce): F Aeg-Gre; F Eas-Ion; A Ank-Con; A Bul-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1903" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 20 MAY 2005.

BERLIN ENQUIRER: Rumors are running rampant about why the military could not afford the uniforms and other outfits for the new army personnel. Chief Uniform Designer Versache's office has no comment.

SEVASTOPOL (Apr. 1, 1903): Czar Ivan VII had two words to say to the Turkish Consul as he held aloft his sabre, "See this!" before he swung it at him.

POLYKARPOLIS, PRAVOSLAVNIAN PATRIMONY OF POLYKARP (URRP): Following the sudden death of Patriarch George Ringo II from a surfeit of lampreys, the High School of Cardinals met in the ancient capital of this tiny theocracy, high in the Balkan Massif, to choose his successor. After several days, a jet of white wine erupted from the roof of the Patriarchal Palace, indicating that a new Patriarch had been chosen as the latest successor of Holy Polykarp, whose worshippers believe him to be the Fourth Person of the Holy Quaternity, Nephew of God, Elder Brother of Jesus, and First Cousin Once Removed of the Holy Ghost, as proclaimed in the Newer Testament.

After days of vigorous debate, the choice of the new Patriarch was decided by a soccer game. Its final score was 9 to 6, this being the number of survivors on each side. The new Patriarch is Cardinal Ratzaß, formerly Procurator of Firewood for the Office of Doctrinal Conformity. He has taken the name "Bendadic XVI", out of his great admiration for the deeds and thoughts of Patriarch Bendadic IX.

The new Patriarch's Secretary of State, Cardinal Teratoma, predicted that this Patriarch would bring good relations between Polykarpian and members of other religions. "The Jews in particular will love him," said the Cardinal. "He wears a white yarmulka, he took the name 'Benny', and he deserted from the German army!"

PLEASE STAND BY

I am willing to take over games that have been abandoned by their gamesmasters. So if you are a postal gamesmaster who is no longer able to publish, or if you are a player in a postal game of regular Diplomacy that has gone for two or three months without a move being published, please get in touch with the Orphan Games Director, Michael Lowrey. (See p. 11 for his address.) If the game is to continue in Graustark, I would need the addresses of all active players, the current position, and a list of who owns which supply centers. If subscription money can be passed along to me, fine.

Otherwise I will ask players to join a new game in Graustark, or to subscribe to Graustark if they do not already do so. Players who resign or drop out can be replaced by Graustark stand-by players.

Stand-by players are always needed for postal Diplomacy games in Graustark. If you volunteer as a stand-by, you may be called upon whenever a current player misses a move. If you send in moves for that country for the next turn, and the present player does not, you will take over play of that position. No game fee will be asked, though you should keep your subscription current, or enroll in a new Graustark game. No stand-by will be called upon in a game in which he or she has already played.

Stand-by volunteers who are willing to take on additional games of postal Diplomacy are listed below. A stand-by player who is already playing in a Graustark game is indicated by "*". A player who is called on in this issue to stand by is indicated by "#". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know.

Hank Alme
John R. Biehl*
Paul D. Milewski
Michael Neal#

Michael Quirk*
Eric Verheiden*
Fred Wiedemeyer*

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 12)

whether I was the Pope's spy and whether it was true that that prince was due to come in person to dethrone him. I answered that the Pope was a seventy-year-old priest; that he lived four thousand leagues away from His Sacred Tartaro-Chinese Majesty; that he had about two thousand soldiers, who went on guard with a parasol; that he dethroned nobody, and that His Majesty could sleep in security." - Voltaire, "History of Scarmentado's Travels" (1756)

*

In his The Abyssinian Prince #290 Jim Burgess has further details about the death of Phil Reynolds at the age of 39 on 13 March 2005. Memorial donations may be made to the Philip P. Reynolds Fund, c/o Century Bank, 3600 Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34239.

Jim will continue Phil's two postal Diplomacy games. Jim also reports that the Boardman Number 2005A has been assigned to his newest game.

Today's Terror Alert Color Code is Blushing Blue, the embarrassed tone of the New York City Po' Lice Department after the city's courts awarded thousands of dollars to the people arrested and manhandled by cops during the anti-war demonstrations at last year's Republican National Convention. Most of the arrests have been dismissed, and further legal action is likely. (However, the cops might mend their ways if those judgments are taken out of their pension fund.)

GRAUSTARK #764

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302





- () - You may be interested in an item on p. ____.
- () - Sample copy.
- () - You missed a move in this issue. See p. ____.
- () - A stand-by move is needed from you in _____. See p. ____.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Timothy R. Haffey Sr.
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Oakland, CA
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WAR IS TERRORISM

9901450A

[illegible]